

Is your standard of living increasing or decreasing?

Decreasing – 59%

I'm a government employee and the city is trying to balance their budget by taking away my benefits and pension.

Due to cost of fuel and increased cost of other necessity items such as food I find I have fewer dollars to put away for retirement or to spend on luxury items. In fact I find more and more people are selling many of their luxury items such as boats, horses, and vacation homes.

I believe I have read that actual wages, when compared to cost-of-living, has not increased since the 1970's!

Inflation is rising. Costs are rising. Healthcare and food are costing more. So, no my standard of living is decreasing to accommodate these things.

The quality of every day items is dropping. Things are being built for failure rather than to last. Everything from clothing to houses seems to be getting more and shoddier.

More work for same pay. Living expenses increasing - heating oil, gas, food. 4th amendment is gone.

My tax dollars are going to business welfare. You know, companies like GE and the petroleum companies making money hand over fist and profiting from loopholes in the tax code or actual give backs. Every one needs to pay their fair share so the standard of living rises for all of us.

I was expected to graduate and earn a salary of 40,000 starting out and 50,000 after 3 years. But available starting positions have dropped to 25,000 for entry level and to 35,000 after 3 years. This to me means a decrease in a standard of living especially when you end up eating ramen noodles for 3 years after graduation just to pay for loans where you expected to earn almost double what you were actually earning.

Increasing – 39%

My small business sales are up 40% over last year. We have worked hard to insure revenue streams from many different sources, not depending on one line or item to see us through the economy of today. We have hired 15 people since the 1st of the year and bonuses for all employees are the largest yet!

I've been working at one job for over 25 years.

Growing older has the advantage of seeing major debts disappear; thus leaving income to be spent on luxuries and pleasure. It is definitely a better standard to live by.

Mine has been increasing. I earned a masters degree last year which gave me a promotion and now I get a raise every year.

As I am only a couple of years away from retirement our retirement strategy was established about 25 years ago. We have never spent over what we could afford. Our major concern with retirement is the loss of travel \$\$\$\$.

Standard of living is not measured in financial terms but in contentment.

Financially yes and this contributes through the continuous improvement of scientific discoveries in the field of infectious diseases where I definitely used them in fulfilling my duties as public health professional in resource-limited countries.

Shrinking debt and good health.

Kids gone, house almost paid for!!

Technology continues to make life easier.

Building a horse ranch.

Decreasing – 59%

Income is not going up as fast as prices for essentials.

Many goods and services are becoming more expensive while jobs are harder to find.

We had hoped to sell out house and build a house on land we purchased years ago in the country. But, the home market is gone. Our expenses are outstripping our income just for day-to-day living.

House value declined 100%; food, gasoline and energy costs have increased significantly.

Natural activities that are a part of healthy living, such as taking a hike in the park may no longer be free as in previous decades. Also reviewing my parents income to output, they could buy basics - clothes, food, household - and still have a little money left to save or for enjoyable activities.

I used to buy a new car, every four years. Since 1998 I did not a buy a new car. School for children (COLLEGE) it is too expensive.

In third world countries, I have noticed there is a large gap between rich and poor. This gap is increasing in the US and is at its widest in US history. Thus, I believe we are on our way to becoming a third world country.

I make less money and have fewer assets and fewer prospects.

I recently retired. My income is cut in half. I save on some expenses, but still have property taxes, sales taxes, utilities to pay, etc.

Due to the economic status of this country I have not received a pay increase, yet the cost of living has increased at a ridiculous pace. How can anyone in the middle/working class maintain a standard of living in this economy?

I can't afford the little extras any more.

Increasing – 39%

In these very tough economic times, if you have "disposable" income or any income at all, for that matter...there are some really great deals. You don't really have to pay full price for clothes, cars, etc. Except for gas and groceries, the shopping is great!